

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

TWO NEW POCKET MICE OF THE GENUS
PEROGNATHUS.

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Several hundred specimens of pocket mice have been secured by field parties of the Biological Survey since the publication of the last revision of the genus *Perognathus*.* Among these are many which serve to increase the knowledge of the distribution and relationships of the various species and subspecies. The new material also indicates that two well-marked subspecies are still unnamed. They may be known as follows:

***Perognathus flavescens perniger* subsp. nov.**

Type from Vermilion, South Dakota. Young-adult female, No. 57,725, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. Aug. 22, 1889. G. S. Agersborg.

Characters.—Size, proportions, and skull much as in *P. flavescens*; color of upperparts chiefly intense black; underparts chiefly ochraceous buff.

Color.—Median dorsal region intense black or brownish black to roots of hairs; sides and head mixed black and ochraceous buff; ears brownish black very narrowly edged with buffy; inferior subauricular spot bright buff, superior one nearly obsolete; lateral line ochraceous buff, broad and sharply contrasted; underparts rich ochraceous buff except chin and a narrow stripe on throat and breast, which are white; tail dusky above, whitish below, narrowly buffy on sides; feet buffy, toes paler.

Skull.—As in *P. flavescens*.

Measurements.—Type: Total length, 140; tail vertebræ, 68; hind foot (dry), 17.

* *North American Fauna*, No. 18, September 20, 1900.

Remarks.—The type of this subspecies has been in the collection of the Biological Survey for a number of years. It has heretofore been doubtfully referred to *flavescens* on the assumption that its very dark color was due to melanism or other abnormal condition. Apparently this is not the case, for a second specimen from Vermilion, South Dakota, while quite immature, shows the same dark color, and two adults from Verdigris, Nebraska, are distinctly intermediate. One of these, collected April 23, 1903, by Merritt Cary, has decidedly more dusky than is usual in *flavescens*, and has the posterior half of the underparts almost entirely buff. The other, collected by V. Bailey, June 11, 1893, is more like *flavescens* in the color of the upperparts, but has the buffy suffusion on the belly. The specimens from Vermilion, South Dakota, seem to represent an extreme development of these characters. Typical *flavescens* invariably has pure white underparts, and except in very high pelage is quite pale throughout. Its home is in the sand hills of Nebraska, where conditions are decidedly different from those in the more humid region inhabited by *perniger*.

***Perognathus californicus ochrus* subsp. nov.**

Type from Santiago Springs (16 miles southwest of McKittrick), Kern County, California. Young-adult female, No. 130,348, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. July 30, 1903. Luther J. Goldman.

Characters.—Similar to *P. californicus dispar*, but decidedly paler.

Color.—Upperparts mixed pinkish buff and dusky, producing a general effect varying from ecru drab to broccoli brown; lateral line pale pinkish buff; underparts creamy white; tail hair brown above, white below; hands and feet white.

Skull.—As in *P. c. dispar*.

Measurements.—Average of 10 young-adult topotypes: Total length, 200 (190–216); tail vertebrae, 108.7 (100–119); hind foot, 25.

Remarks.—This pale form of *P. californicus* seems to be confined to the region about the lower end of the San Joaquin Valley. The palest specimens are those from localities nearest the bottom of the valley. Specimens from Tehachapi and Old Fort Tejon show a slight approach to *dispar*, to which they were formerly referred. A series from Three Rivers, Kern County, is typical of *dispar*, which seems to indicate that the range of this form is interrupted in the passes at the foot of the San Joaquin Valley by the paler form *ochrus*. *P. c. dispar* is itself slightly paler than *californicus*, but the principal reason for recognizing it is its larger size and cranial characters. Should these cranial characters prove inconstant on the acquisition of larger series of true *californicus*, *dispar* would fall as a synonym of *californicus*. In any case the form here called *ochrus* would merit recognition.

Specimens examined.—Total number, 65, from localities in California as follows: Alcalde, 1; Carrizo Plains, 1; Cayama Valley, 3; Fort Tejon, 2; 25 miles above Kernville, 1; Onyx, 4; Painted Rock, 25 miles southeast of Simmler, 1; San Emigdio, 4; San Emigdio Canyon, 5; Santiago Springs, 16 miles southwest of McKittrick, 36; Tehachapi, 2; Tejon Canyon, 5.